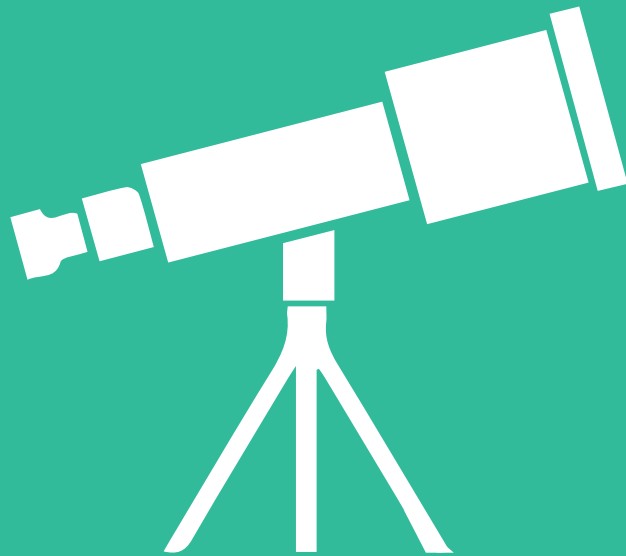


BIXBY PARK MASTER PLAN UPDATE

WORKSHOP #1 SUMMARY AND NOTES

SATURDAY MARCH 29, 2014

BIXBY PARK COMMUNITY CENTER



SUMMARY OF WORKSHOP#1

Workshop #1 focused on establishing visions and goals that will form the foundation of the Bixby Park Master Plan update.

After an introduction and welcome by Council member Suja Lowenthal and Anna Mendiola, Park Development Officer from the City of Long Beach, workshop participants heard a presentation about the master plan update process, background on the project, and inspiration images of public parks. Workshop participants then broke out into smaller groups (by color: red, blue, green, and yellow) to discuss the potential vision and goals for Bixby Park and to 'Think Big' about what sort of park they would like to see Bixby become. Group members looked at booklets of themed precedent photos of park improvement as food for thought.

In addition to discussing and voting on potential visions and goals, attendees documented the park's opportunities and constraints on aerial maps using stickers to highlight park issues, priority improvement areas, how people use the park, and how people access the park.

Participants also filled out comment cards and park surveys in English and Spanish. The hard copies of the surveys collected are being compiled along with the responses from the online version of the survey by the design team. The survey was developed based on a previous Friends of Bixby Park survey and is focused on establishing goals and priorities for the Master Plan.

This following report summarizes the group discussions and the existing opportunities and constraints analysis from the mapping exercise.

SUMMARY OF VISIONING / GOAL SETTING

The following goals were ranked by each group as either a high- or a low-priority*. In order of importance the goals were:

	VISION/GOAL	GROUP #1	GROUP #2	GROUP #3	GROUP #4	AVERAGE SCORE
1	Improve Safety/ Security!	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
2	Maintain/Improve Park Facilities!	100%	71%	100%	100%	92%
3	Make it Comfortable	100%	85%	86%	50%	80%
4	Make Better Connections!	100%	0%	100%	100%	75%
5	Build Identity/ Theme of Bixby!	78%	100%	29%	0%	52%
6	Make it Easier to Get To!	100%	0%	0%	100%	50%

* Percentages represent the percentage of each group that thought the vision/goal was a high-priority

- 32

Attendees Signed In
- 23

Comment Cards Received
- 18

Hard Copy Surveys Submitted

Add New Facilities!

The following facilities were suggested by each group as priorities for addition or enhancement to the park:

GROUP #1



- Restroom

GROUP #2



- Fitness Track/Station
- Promenade

GROUP #3



- Restroom
(Closer to band shell and playground)

GROUP #4



- Art Studios
- Restrooms for Classes
- Youth Room
- Ceramics Studios

Create Exciting Events!

The following events were discussed by each group as important for Bixby Park to maintain, expand, or add:

GROUP #1



- Marketing
- Movies
- Concerts

GROUP #2



- Band shell Events
 - Local Theaters
 - Concerts

GROUP #3



- Create an Event Calendar

GROUP #4



- Art Classes
- Art Programming
- Art Shows

GROUP #1 (9 Stakeholders)

Group #1 agreed that maintenance, comfort, creating better connections, and providing safety were high priorities for the Master Plan update. Participants agreed that central pathways or a grand promenade would help to unite the four park parcels. Participants generally supported the notion of organizing the park programming within Parcel 3 by creating zones for varying activities. Some members of the group felt that “Building an Identity” or “Creating a Theme” were less of a priority, but did emphasize the importance of preserving the history of the park through design features and amenities. Providing new restrooms was important. Marketing and providing publicly accessible information about activities at the park were also seen as a priority.

This goal is a high priority...

78%
AGREE

Build Identity/Theme of Bixby!

- Name: people think it's called “Cherry” – come up with a branding theme
- Include public art- historical aspect, architecture of existing facilities in the park (e.g. band shell and historic furniture purchased by Friends of Bixby Park, FOBP)
- Better marketing

100%
AGREE

Make Better Connections!

- Lighting, access at night - need safety
- Connecting path - unity
- Focal point
- Create designated areas within the park for various activities (e.g. specific place for bbq)
 - Organize park users/user groups

100%
AGREE

Make it Comfortable!

- Different seating types - more seating in general
- Other furniture
- More shades/trees (maintain the existing trees too)
- Maintenance of security lights
- Coordinate w/ FOBP improvements for Parcel 1 - furnishing purchased
- Destinalional
- Purposeful

100%
AGREE

Improve Safety/Security!

- *Better lighting*
- Remove visual barriers
- No tree canopy removal
 - Cutting to maintain blockage
- Coordinate with area working together
- Skate park lighting
- Coordinate w/ Friends of Bixby Park (FOBP) improvements for Parcel 1 - furnishing purchased

100%
AGREE

Maintain/Improve Park Facilities!

- *Trash maintenance*
 - Most Trash in Parcel 1
- Maintain the landscaping
- Improve existing facilities in the park
- Design to limit loitering
- Add/maintain bathrooms
- Maintain to limit defecation



Make it Easier to Get To!

- More/better parking options
 - Hard to park during events/farmers market
- More/better bike parking
 - The only bike parking that currently exists is next to the playground. Introduce handful of bike parking options at key destinations throughout the park
- Improved linkages to bus stops
- Enhanced crosswalks
- Potentially consider introducing below-grade parking
- Do a parking study of existing vs. proposed
- Challenge: adding vs taking away parking



Add New Facilities!

- Restrooms



Create Exciting Events!

- Marketing
- Movies (More)
- Concerts (More)
- Regional plan of all projects

GROUP #2 (7 Stakeholders)

Group #2 agreed that “Improving Safety” and “Building an Identity” were high priorities for Bixby Park. However, the group felt that, “Make Better Connections” and “Making it Easier to Get To” were less of a priority. Most of the members thought, “Make it Comfortable” and “Maintain/Improve Park Facilities”, were somewhat important priorities. The group wanted to see a fitness track with fitness stations, improvements to the playground, and a re-creation of the historic promenade. The members thought that utilizing the historic bandshell was an important way to brand the park as well as creating opportunities to stage exciting events.

This goal is a high priority...

100%
AGREE

Build Identity/Theme of Bixby!

- Diversity as a theme (the group liked columns shown in precedent pictures from Grand Park in Downtown Los Angeles with text in different languages)
- Nature as a theme/environmental considerations
- Historic architecture is important
- Create a different theme for each Parcel:

PARCEL 1 (northern most parcel): Tranquility/peace or nature area?

PARCEL 2: Play/events

PARCEL 3: Picnic areas/gathering/sports

PARCEL 4 (southern most parcel): Beach view (iconic architecture for viewing platform, like the Highline in New York, etc.)

100%
DISAGREE

Make Better Connections!

- Connect the parcels by themes
- Preserve the views of Bixby from Signal Hill
- Mark the entrances with signage elements (example as a vertical elements like the columns depicted from Grand Park)
- Visual connections to the beach, and throughout the park
- Bring back the historic promenade through the center of the park
- Use decomposed granite as a pathway material

85%
AGREE

Make it Comfortable!

- More seating
- Picnic areas in shady areas. Modern picnic tables (wood material)
- Free and flexible seating in parcel 2 (play/event area) also perhaps around the band stand area

100%
AGREE

Improve Safety/Security!

- Better Lighting**** (and make it historic)
- Programming as a deterrent of crime (activate the band-shell)
- Make all areas of the park programmable
- Bring back Park Rangers
- Parked cars can attract crime, homeless sleeping in the cars
- Maintaining/upkeep prevents crime

71%
AGREE

Maintain/Improve Park Facilities!

- Complete Parcel 1 plans by Friends of Bixby Park
- Trash/maintenance, make trash cans permanent
- Connected picnic areas and trash areas (wood elements)
- Playgrounds should be natural, educational, and some tie in with the historic architecture as well
- Playgrounds should cater to several age groups not just one type of age range/group



Make it Easier to Get To!

- Address parking spillover from neighborhoods
- Making it easier to get to is not really an important issue with the BLUE GROUP since they walk to Bixby
- Parking is an issue some parts of the day
- Walking to the park is not a issue, generally walking is safe/comfortable



Add New Facilities!

- Fitness facilities, make it visible, spread it out
- Don't put all the fitness equipment in Parcel 1
- Create a fitness/track with stations of fitness facilities
- Make it aesthetic, colorful, beautiful, fun
- Focus on improving existing facilities (playground) before any other "new" improvements
- Create a main promenade, with trees to highlight the view to the beach
- Make things attractive. Emphasis on environmental/sustainability, and historic architecture
- Add new facilities: restrooms and expanded community center



Create Exciting Events!

- Theme things to nature/environment
- More band-shell activities: Long Beach Idol, musical performances, etc.

GROUP #3 (7 Stakeholders)

The members of this group encouraged the design team to think big about master plan improvements. The streets that fragment the park were discussed as major barriers that should be addressed. New crosswalks other and safety enhancements such as improved lighting were discussed. The group also discussed building a theme and identity and after some discussion decided that if done inexpensively, building a theme could help activate the park, make it more attractive and more interesting to be in. The group identified Bixby Park as neighborhood-oriented, rather than a regional draw.

This goal is a high priority...

57%
DISAGREE

Build Identity/Theme of Bixby!

- Identity
 - The park should be neighborhood oriented
 - Add or enhance a gateway to build identity
- History can be identity-forming
 - Long Beach has a rich history as does the park. Use this as a theme.
 - Thematic improvements can be done cheaply and do not have to break the bank
 - Herbert Hoover in band shell
 - Great skate history
 - Old mansion
- Community art project to activate and attract attention
- Location for displays and interactive art
- Schools tie in?
- What about pop-up events and food trucks?
- Creating Identity
 - Discourages vandalism
 - Creates excitement

29%
AGREE

14%
ON THE FENCE

85%
DISAGREE

Internal
Pathway
Connections
.....

100%
AGREE

External
connections
across the
streets from

Make Better Connections!

- Making internal pathways through the park is not necessary in most cases.
- Streets that cut through the park fragment each area from the next. Relink across these streets. Park is divided by roadways. It should be better connected across the streets:
 - Remove cars out of First/Second streets?
 - People who park at Bixby do not live around here
 - Any Master Plan vision should not be wimpy. It needs to be BIG and thoughtful. Think Big.
 - The Park needs a better connection to the water
- Better access to community center
- Wide open grassy spaces are good. Need space for sports and pick up games, etc.
- Walkers and runners go to the beach so do no need facilities here
- Implement the Friends of Bixby Park planned improvements

85%
AGREE

Make it Comfortable!

- Need better/more seating options (e.g. on the bluff)
- More shade, bigger trees
- Movable furniture would be nice. Be careful about maintenance.



Improve Safety/Security!

- Streets and kids conflict. Fix these issues.
- Crosswalk: we really need more crosswalks



Maintain/Improve Park Facilities!

- Skate Park
 - Something to jump down: Stairs
 - Skaters use the band shell or stairs in the community center. Make sure that the facilities provided in the skate park provide the features really desired.
- Community center functions as a wall: fragments the park
 - Not inviting
 - Shade structure needed
 - We want a better indoor/outdoor flow and connections



For
Neighbors

Make it Easier to Get To!

Outsiders



- Group members felt that improvements for the park should be prioritized for neighborhood members rather than outside visitors



Add New Facilities!

- Restrooms



Create Exciting Events!

- Facilitate events. Website. Better programming.
- Create an event calendar
- Food Trucks
 - Low cost to create excitement

GROUP #4 (9 Stakeholders)

Group #4 thought the most important priorities were creating better connections, improving safety/security, maintaining park facilities, and making Bixby easier to get to. Branding and creating comfort were not high priorities for Group #4. New facilities and new events and programming seem to be focused on Art and Art education.

This goal is a high priority...



Build Identity/Theme of Bixby!

- Not a high priority for the Park.
- There should be uniformity with the four quadrants
- Diversity is key
- Historic architecture is key
- Use



Make Better Connections!

- Pathways and bluff not well-signed
- Clear entry features are important
- Disperse uses throughout park



Make it Comfortable

- Need more and better seating options (clusters)
- Promote interaction between park users
- Removable seating could be good
- More trees
- Natural shade
- Skate park should have spectator seating with shade



Improve Safety/Security!

- Colored crosswalk (2nd/Junipero)
- It can be dark in the community center
- Low level lighting
- Pathway lighting should be added. Better lighting throughout.
- Bixby is dark at night and can feel unsafe



Maintain/Improve Park Facilities!

- Trees block view (need more transparency through park)
- Trash day for users with outreach
- Trash cans concrete
- Graffiti issues – signage – community/artists – art project to deter graffiti
- Maintain landscaping – add more flowers – should be more appealing
- Improve community center
- Restroom use for class students is an issue



Make it Easier to Get To!

- Dedicated spots for staff
- Get people out of their cars, emphasis on other modes
- Better bike parking
 - More bike racks
 - Next to bus stops
 - Improved linkages to bus stops – more visual connection to bus stops
 - Bike racks should be dispersed so you can see your bike



Add New Facilities!

- Storage room should be converted into Youth Room for activities/classes
- Ceramics studio would like more use of storage space
- Art classes/kid's art classrooms



Create Exciting Events!

- Long Beach Arts, Autism Spectrum Club
- Art Shows
- New programming
- Mosaic tiles for:
 - Picnic Tables
 - Chess Tables

ACCESS MAP

Where do you access the park?*



* Map summarizes the mapping exercise responses from all four groups

USER MAP

What areas of the park do you use?*



* Map summarizes the mapping exercise responses from all four groups

TOP IMPROVEMENT MAP

Where are the top areas that you would like to see improved?*



* Map summarizes the mapping exercise responses from all four groups

ISSUE AREA MAP

Where are the issue areas in the park?*



* Map summarizes the mapping exercise responses from all four groups

Workshop #1 Comment Cards

These “word generators” show the frequently-used words larger, as a visual summary of comment card hot topics.

What makes Bixby Park special?



What are your concerns with the park?



